

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

December 5, 2013

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Airports Contribute \$11 Billion to Missouri Economy

by DeAnne Rickabaugh

A recent study by MoDOT revealed that 108 of the airports it helps support contribute 100,621 jobs with a payroll of \$ 3.1 billion to the Missouri economy. When all economic activities are considered, total annual economic output of Missouri's airports is estimated at \$11.1 billion, or 4.3 percent of the gross state product.



The study looked at direct and indirect impacts nine commercial and 99 public-use airports make to Missouri's economy. It showed the economic contribution of Missouri airports grew 17.1 percent in the past decade - despite the economic recession which began in 2007. The growth was fueled largely by an increase in business activity.

"In addition to airports' status as a substantial job and payroll contributor, we found communities large and small rely on Missouri airports to spur economic growth and increase access to regional and worldwide markets," said MoDOT Director, Dave Nichols. "This is just the kind of activity Missourians who have been participating in the long range transportation plan told us they want to see increase during the next 20 years. Unfortunately, current funding constraints limit how much MoDOT can do to enhance or expand airports in the state."

Missouri's commercial airports provide access to destinations worldwide and bring in millions of visitors. In 2012, an estimated 6.2 million travelers arrived in Missouri using commercial airports and more than 260,000 arrived on general aviation aircraft. While here, they spent money on hotels, shopping, entertainment and other activities. These purchases, as well as direct impacts such as airport concessions, air cargo and flight school activities have a spin-off effect, boosting the local economy.

"It's also important to note that Missouri aircraft are used to rescue, to transport patients and medical personnel, to treat crops and monitor forests, among other activities," said Bryan Gregory, MoDOT aviation operations manager. "Aviation contributes to our quality of life."

Airport study details can be found at MoDOT's website, <http://www.modot.org/othertransportation/aviation/aviationgeneralinformation.htm>.

MoDOT Launches Study To Develop Freight Plan

by Robert Brendel

MoDOT has launched an effort to develop a freight plan for Missouri. It is related to the department's long range transportation plan, directly applying to the plans goals of investing in projects that spur economic growth and create jobs, and give Missourians better transportation choices.

"The freight plan is a 'deeper dive' into one of the critical areas that was identified during the On the Move public engagement efforts earlier this year," Cheryl Ball, MoDOT administrator of freight and waterways, said. "It will carefully define Missouri's freight network, and set goals, strategies and implemental actions to guide MoDOT freight investment for the next decade or so."

Ball also said the plan will focus on our freight stakeholders including modal operators, logistics firms and businesses shipping and receiving freight. "The input we receive from them will help us craft a list of high, medium and low priority freight projects that can be shared with our districts for future consideration," she said.

The freight plan kicks off this month and should be completed by the fall of 2014. A consultant team led by CDM Smith of Kansas City will assist MoDOT and a steering committee that includes representatives of public and private groups and will be chaired by Assistant Chief Engineer Kathy Harvey. Other members of the steering committee are:

Michelle Teel - Director, Multimodal Operations, MoDOT
 Michelle Watkins - Director, Transportation Planning, MoDOT
 Scott Marion - Director, Motor Carrier Services, MoDOT
 Becky Baltz - District Engineer, Southwest Missouri, MoDOT
 Tom Blair - Asst. District Engineer, St. Louis, MoDOT
 Joe Jones - Engineering Policy Administrator, Design, MoDOT
 Bob Brendel - Special Assignments Coordinator, Customer Relations, MoDOT
 Mike Heimericks - Deputy Director, Missouri Dept. of Economic Development
 Misti Preston - Deputy Director, Missouri Dept. of Agriculture
 Chris Gutierrez - President, Kansas City Smartport
 John Ferguson - Economic Developer, Pemiscot County Port Authority
 David Lancaster - Director, Cargo Development, Lambert International Airport



Kevin Ward - Missouri Division Administrator, FHWA
 Tom Crawford - President/CEO, Missouri Trucking Association
 Chris Klenklen - Director, Grain Inspection & Warehouse Division, Missouri Dept. of Agriculture
 Ben Jones - Director, Public Affairs, Union Pacific Railroad and Missouri Chairman, American Association of Railroads

Team Talk

by Roberta Broeker

Hello Team MoDOT! I hope you had safe travels over the Thanksgiving break, and were able to spend some time with people you love (and maybe pets you love...I always include my own furry friends, Radley and Raven, in my personal happiness equation). I also hope if you went to a Black Friday sale, you scored some great deals and didn't let the crowds curb your holiday spirit. I'm a real "Bah Humbug" person when it comes to holiday crowds, but I know some live for the sport. This is a super-busy time of the year, but I hope I can "double dog dare" you to add one more thing to your to-do list.

That's right a double dog dare. For those unfamiliar with the term, a double dog dare was the highest challenge you could give someone on the playground (with the possible exception of the triple dog dare to "touch your tongue to the flag pole" from "A Christmas Story"). This dare might sound something like, "I double dog dare you to race me for your pudding cup." The double dog dare was always in front of a group, so everyone knew who laid down the challenge and what was at stake.

So here goes. I double dog dare you to submit an innovation to the Innovations Challenge for a chance at getting \$75 extra in one of your paychecks next year. If you accept the challenge your chances of getting that \$75 have never been better. The 2013 Innovations Challenge will recognize more employees with up to 18 first-round winners in each district and the Central Office. The categories this year are also broader making it almost impossible for you to have an innovation that doesn't fit one of the three categories: tools and equipment, projects, and productivity. You don't even have to pick a category, the district and Central Office evaluation teams will do that for you.



The above video shows how a tractor adapter innovation submitted by the Kansas City District makes it easier to make a quick change from one piece of equipment to another.

Go to the Innovations Challenge website at <http://wwwi.intranet/or/SolutionsAtWork/Innovations.htm> (link works for employees only). Read through the descriptions for the challenge categories, and I bet it will bring to mind some way you've put innovation to work in your area. If you're still stumped, talk with your co-workers. Team innovations are more than welcome. Each team member on a first-round winner will receive \$75 with teams of six or more dividing \$450.

Who knows, taking my double dog dare might even land you a spot in the Innovations Showcase next April. There you'll be a part of the 60 best innovations competing for up to \$425 per person or \$1,550 per team. All that, just for putting your innovation down on paper before the December 31 deadline.

It's a dare worth taking. Dare to be BOLD. Dare to INNOVATE. Go Team MoDOT!

Times Have Changed, But Some Things Remain

by Jim Dickson



Over the years, many things have changed at the University of Missouri since Director Dave Nichols sat at the drafting tables pictured on the left. Returning alumnae often find it hard to recognize where they lived or the paths they took to class. However, when Dave spoke to aspiring young engineering students last month, he found himself back in this very classroom.

You won't be able to pick Dave out in the picture, as this was before his time, but you may recognize the student seated on the left at the front table. It's Clarence Mabin, the university's first African-American civil engineering graduate. If you missed our feature on Clarence earlier this year, you can still read it at

<http://modot.org/newsandinfo/Connections/documents/June27-2013.pdf>.

Study Recommends Mississippi River For Oversized Transportation

by Laura Seabaugh

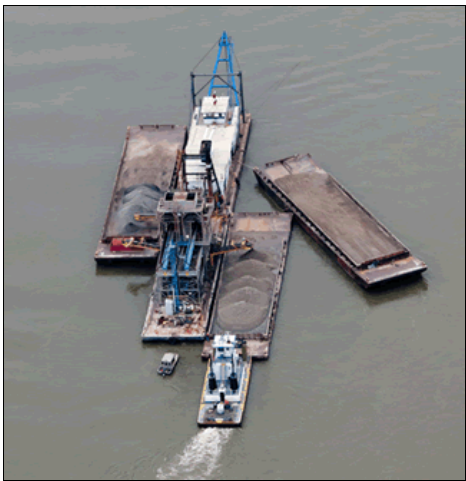
Manufacturers and agricultural producers near the Mississippi and Illinois rivers could gain access to new markets and lower shipping costs, based on a new study that reveals transporting oversized goods and equipment by water routes is feasible and can lower costs for businesses and consumers.

That agrees with what Missourians told us during “On the Move;” that they want more transportation options and more interconnectivity of all transportation modes. Unfortunately, finding the resources to invest in projects that achieve that goal is difficult, since 70 percent of MoDOT’s budget comes from fuel taxes that must – by the State Constitution – be spent on highways and bridges.

"Due to advances in containerization and the business community's creativity in overcoming barriers, river shipping options are expanding rapidly," said Michelle Teel, director of MoDOT's Multimodal Operations division. "As it becomes easier and more affordable to move unconventional freight on the rivers, Midwestern goods are more likely to expand into the global marketplace. That's good for the region, good for businesses and because river transportation is fuel-efficient, it's good for the environment."

The study was sponsored by MoDOT, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Heart of Illinois Port of Peoria and the U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration.

The study included a market analysis and operational and business plans. The study can be found at <http://bit.ly/1cVcMV8>.



MoDOT’s Customer Service *Tips for Improving the Caller’s Experience*

by Alberta Green

Unfortunately, it’s not uncommon. You call a company’s customer service center and are greeted with an automated message, followed by a list of vague options and a never-ending queue. The only indication you are even still connected is the repetitive hold music.



Alberta Green is a
Senior Traffic
Technician in the
Southeast District.

Luckily, travelers calling MoDOT’s Customer Service Center are in for a pleasant surprise. They are welcomed by a “real” person, as many of our first-time callers amusingly remark.

When MoDOT’s Customer Service Center was established in 1996, the goal was to have a one-stop shop where questions could be answered with limited transfers and holding. While our operations have changed a bit over the past 18 years, our customer service representatives continuously strive to provide accurate, timely information.

Customers are especially thankful to get a live representative when they have a complex question or during harsh weather conditions.

With our first bout of winter weather approaching this week, many callers may be stressed with the forecast and how it might impact their travel. Having an actual conversation with the caller and using active listening skills makes a difference.

Research released last year by Interactions Corporation indicated about 83 percent of people will avoid a company after a poor experience with an automated system.

Remember, customer service representatives are at the front lines of the MoDOT team and providing outstanding customer service is a top priority. While we may work long hours this week and receive the typical questions regarding winter weather, do not become “automated” in our responses!

Fatality Update



What's Happening

Osage River Bridge Celebrated



The opening of the 1,200-foot railroad bridge across the Osage River, which adds capacity and reduces delays on the route between Kansas City and St. Louis, was celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony. See the Central District Page for the full story - [Central District](#)



October EAC Minutes

Minutes from the Employee Advisory Council's October meeting have been posted on the EAC website at http://wwwi/intranet/eac/meeting_highlights.htm (*link works for employees only*).

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the EAC at eac@modot.mo.gov.

Get Your Mobile Apps

Available on the iPhone
App Store

Available on the
Android Market

Update your MoDOT Traveler Information App today!

MoDOT's popular Traveler Information App has gotten even better. Users of iPhones, iPads and Android mobile devices who update the app will now have access to statewide traffic flow information in addition to incidents, closures, work zones, message boards and weather-related road conditions.

Check out all the new features on the website at www.modot.org.



DUI Holiday Campaign

The holiday rush is upon us, full of shopping and holiday parties at offices and homes across the state. The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety wants to remind those who plan to drink alcohol to designate a sober driver, or call a cab to avoid driving impaired. Statewide, law enforcement is on the lookout for impaired drivers, with targeted enforcement efforts Dec. 15, 2013 to Jan. 2, 2014.

There are no excuses to drive impaired. The facts are known -- drinking and driving can be a lethal combination. The consequences are fines, jail time or even death.

To learn more, visit savemolives.com, or find us on Facebook and Twitter at Save MO Lives, #DriveSoberMO.



Win a MoDOT Centennial T-shirt

Congratulations to Judy Franke of the Kansas City District and Betty Hampton in the Chief Counsel's office for knowing that the name of the computer system on department trucks that controls the amount of materials used to melt snow is the GL400. Your t-shirts are on the way.

This week we'll tackle a question from the centennial video. According to MoDOT's Centennial video, in 1980, a merger between the Missouri Highway Department and the former Missouri Department of Transportation resulted in an organization with responsibility to the state's:



- highway, rail, motor carrier, air and transit systems
- highway, rail, water, air and transit systems
- rail, bicycle, water, bridge and transit systems
- highway, water, air and transit systems

[Click right to play video](#)



Click left to enter online or fax your answer, name and phone number to (573) 526-4859 by Friday, Dec. 13 for a shot at the next t-shirt give away (*link works for active employees only*).

December Service Anniversaries

30 Years

Robert Don Ralston - KC
John Fitzgerald Ferrell - KC
Duane Michael Whiteman - SL
Steven M. Corbett – SL

25 Years

Catherine A. Cooper - SL
Donald L. Weaver - SE
Tim L. Beavers - SE
Jeffrey Marlin Johnson - SE
Susan C. Buechter - CO
Eva R. Voss – CO

20 Years

Brian K. Williams - CD
Keith A. Dempsey - SL
Dennis Bohannon - SW
Johnny L. Teegardin - SW
Kevin Eugene Minear - SW

15 Years

Cathy Janiese Mackley - NW
Fred J. Kraft - NE
Rebecca A. Mackey - CO
Susan A. Roark - CO

10 Years

Charles O. Roberts - NE
Lloyd D. Crawford - KC
John F. Baker - CD
John Richard Patterson - CD
Richard J. Green - SL
Delbert Joseph Fitzpatrick - SW
Aaron J. Jones - SE
Dennis Earl Day - SE
Stephen L. Hulbert - CO
Linda Kay Conner - CO
Natalie R. Roark - CO
Melissa A. Scheperle – CO

5 Years

Brandon Leigh Strong - NW
David M. French - NW
Mark A. Montgomery - KC
Floyd Bessard - KC
Paul D. Valadez - KC
Jeffrey Wayne Jones - KC
Brandon K. Schreimann - CD
James Paul Simmons - CD
Edith R. Walton - CD
Garrett Depue - CD

5 Years Continued

Harold R. Tatum - SL
Dale L. Watson - SL
Alfred E. Davis - SL
Joseph C. Anderson - SL
David T. Bahr - SL
Christopher W. Fisher - SL
Shawn McClanahan - SL
Stanley Joseph Jovich - SW
Jordan Lee Chapman - SW
Glenn David Cole - SW
Danny R. Kuder - SW
Christopher W. McGlone - SW
Shawn Michael Johnson - SW
Simmual J. Nelson - SW
Douglas M. Stockton - SW
James Randy Thompson - SW
Randy Lee Cantrell - SW
Benjamin Robert Henson - SE
Brady S. Shepherd - SE
Curtiss J. Simpson - CO
Christopher Jacob Yeager - CO
James L. Stovall - CO

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573.751.2840 / www.modot.org

Editor: Tammy Wallace

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December Safety and Health Tips Winter Operations

Winter is a beautiful time of the year, especially when a fresh layer of snow covers everything. But fighting snow storms is treacherous work, especially working long shifts during a storm. As you get ready for snow removal operations, take a few minutes to think about the hazards you face so everyone goes home safe.

Slips, Trips and Falls

Wet floors, icy sidewalks and walkways, parking lots, the bed and sides of trucks and rushing are some of the common causes of falls. You can prevent a fall by wearing appropriate footwear, cleaning snow and ice off the truck ladders and beds, climbing rather than jumping from the truck to the ground and pacing your activities so that you will not be in a hurry.

Backing Incidents

Backing into spreader racks, around vehicles and buildings with fogged-up windows and iced-over mirrors increases your risk of having an incident. Take a few extra minutes to remove ice and fog so you can see where you are going. Don't forget to complete your circle check before backing and, if available, get help to direct you as you back up.



Driver Fatigue

Driver fatigue is a major safety hazard for snow plow operators. Working split shifts or working nights when you typically work days can become a major factor in fatigue. Crashes caused by driver fatigue can be severe because there is little or no braking or other reaction prior to running off of the road or crashing.

If you feel tired, fatigued or are getting sleepy, stop somewhere safe, get out of the truck and take a break. Make a walk around inspection of the plow, truck and spreader. Clean the window, wipers and mirrors. The key is to get out, get some fresh air and move around.

Cuts, Scrapes, and Crushing Injuries

When mounting snow plows on trucks, your hands, fingers, feet and toes are all exposed to the potential for cuts, scrapes, and crushing injuries. Check for pinch points around the lift arms when installing pins and near the ram when attaching the chain. Set blocks under the snow plow to prevent injuries in case it drops unexpectedly.

By taking your time and thinking about what you are doing, you can avoid many of the potential injuries we face each winter.

Building Security Reminder

As we enter the holiday season there may be celebrations that cause employees to bring multiple or large items into our MoDOT buildings. To keep everyone in our buildings safe, please do not prop open any magnetic locked door during or after working hours.

Propping open doors can compromise your personal security and the security of the entire area accessible from that door. If a door is propped open after working hours it can also cause an alarm to needlessly dispatch Capitol Police.



This is a practice we need to remember not only during the holiday season, but all year.

If you have any questions regarding building security issues, contact:
Tim Taylor, Senior Risk Management Specialist / Central Office Security Coordinator
timothy.taylor@modot.mo.gov
(573) 526-5201

What's Happening at Central Office



Developing Leaders

Department employees from across the state attended a leadership development session Nov. 21 in Jefferson City. The event featured two nationally recognized business motivational speakers: Craig Zablocki and Clay Staires.

Zablocki's high-energy presentation challenged participants to overcome their fears by focusing on others rather than themselves. Staires dissected the components of leadership and stressed the importance of taking on the mindset of a leader. You can sample some of Zablocki's presentation at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I8tRAzLX6Jk>.



Hanukkah Presentation

Paula Fuhro from the St. Louis District recently presented a history of the Jewish holiday, Hanukkah. The presentation included the associations of food, games and blessings surrounding this holiday.

Right, Paula explains the lighting of the menorah.



Financial Help

Two opportunities to help reduce financial stress are being offered by the MeeZone:

December 17

10 – 11 a.m. - **10 Strategies for Improving Your Finances** - [10 Strategies Flier](#)

12 – 1 p.m. – **Are You Financially on Track for Retirement** - [Retirement Flier](#)

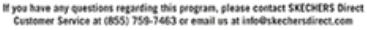
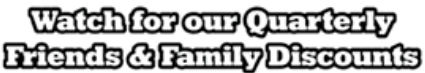
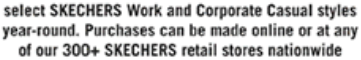
Training Room B, 601 West Main, Jefferson City, MO

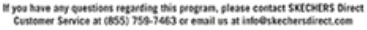
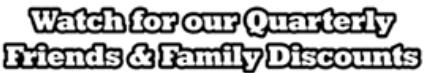
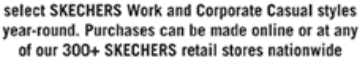
Space is limited, so check with your supervisor, then sign up for one or both classes using the LMS Student Center - [LSM Student Center](#).

For questions contact:
Kristen Bagwill
Kristen.Bagwill@modot.mo.gov
(573) 751-3941

Sketchers Discount

MoDOT employees now receive 30 percent off qualifying Skechers shoe purchases.





Information Flier

For questions contact:
Kristen Bagwill
Kristen.Bagwill@modot.mo.gov
(573) 751-3941

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Northwest District

Route V Opens In Chillicothe

Officials from MoDOT, Livingston County, the city of Chillicothe and representatives from Senator Blunt, Senator McCaskill and Congressman Graves' offices helped cut the ribbon marking the completion and opening of the new Route V Bridge in Chillicothe. The project began in April and included realigning Route V through Chillicothe which opened up economic opportunities on the east side of the new bridge.

The old wooden bridge spans the Canadian Pacific Railroad and is built a short distance to the south. The old bridge had wooden railings, while the new bridge has concrete barriers and a safety fence on the southern side of the bridge. The railroad will remove the old bridge at a later date.



Click on the photo above to view all the speeches made prior to the cutting of the ribbon.



Participating in the ribbon cutting are (l to r) District Engineer Don Wichern, Greg Razer from the office of Senator Claire McCaskill, Livingston County Commissioners Todd Rodenberg and Ken Lauhoff, Tom Salisbury from the office of Senator Roy Blunt, Aaron Baker from the office of Congressman Sam Graves, Area Engineer Tonya Lohman, Chillicothe Mayor Chuck Haney, Chillicothe City Auditor Theresa Kelly, Livingston County Clerk Sherry Parks, Presiding Commissioner Eva Danner Horton, Chillicothe City Administrator Ike Holland, Chillicothe Street Commissioner Barry Arthur, Chillicothe City Clerk Roze Frampton, Chillicothe City Councilman Tom Douglas and Chillicothe City Councilman Reed Dupy.



Greg Razer from the office of Senator Claire McCaskill was one of several speakers at the ribbon cutting. Each stressed the importance of infrastructure, funding and partnership to aid the mobility of citizens and economic growth.



This rooster, housed adjacent to the ribbon cutting site, was very vocal and can be heard chiming in during the speeches prior to the cutting of the ribbon.

Training Leaders

Supervisors from the Northwest District have taken part in John Maxwell's 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership course, finding it very valuable and leading to some great discussions. The class was such a hit, it's now being offered district-wide to all employees. The first class of non-supervisor positions was held recently at the district office and an extensive waiting list has formed in anticipation of the next offering.

Maintenance Leadership Academy has also begun in the Northwest District with all Maintenance Supervisors. The first course was held at the Bethany Maintenance Facility with several more sessions already planned.



Attendees watched video clips of John Maxwell explaining each of his 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership before breaking into small groups to discuss each law and how it applies to their work life.



Maintenance Supervisors from across the district gathered in Bethany for one of the first sessions of the Maintenance Leadership Academy.

For more info

Marcia Johnson
Customer Relations Specialist
Northwest District
816.387.2495
Marcia.Johnson@modot.mo.gov

3602 N. Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64506-1399

Comments & Suggestions

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Pedestal Fatalities on the Rise

There are many things hidden in the weeds on our roadsides, and one of them has been causing safety hazard for MoDOT equipment and resulting in an alarming trend in phone pedestal fatalities. To help prevent future losses, NE District Safety and Health Manager Shari Dye challenged maintenance buildings to come up with ideas on how to change the trend.

"Last year we had two phone pedestal fatalities, and this year by mid October, we had eight, so we issued a competition to the buildings, complete with a prize," Shari explained.

There were 13 entries and voting took place at the most recent maintenance superintendent meeting. The winner was Elsberry maintenance, and their winning ideas will be pursued with utility companies. These ideas include:

- 1) paint pedestal a different color
- 2) mark with some kind of tall object marker
- 3) spray around pedestals when spraying signs and guardrail

The "prize" Elsberry will receive is a cookout given by Shari and her staff.



Phone pedestals are hard to see by maintenance crews when they are mowing, which has resulted in a rise in their demise. Maintenance buildings were issued a challenge to come up with ideas to reduce this trend.

Around the District...



Paula Gough shares the four goals identified from Missourians for the state's long range transportation plan with about 60 utility contractors and requests their feedback.



Several months ago, NE District Utilities Engineer Brandi Baldwin was cleaning out an old office when she found a stack of signs. "Most of them were starting to peel and looked pretty bad, but I kept this one out to take with me as a memento, because I thought it was a cool, old sign" she shared. "I just set it on my desk and never really looked closely at it until this week when I moved to a different desk and took a closer look at this sign and actually read what was on it," she explained. "MISSOURI ON THE MOVE!" "Looks like this isn't the first time we have been "on the move," she joked. (Note: After a little more investigation, Brandi learned this sign was used to promote the '92 plan).



Atlanta School purchased some Arrive Alive shirts and sold them to students at cost. They sold 110 shirts, and some will be shot out at home ball games. They declared November 8 as "Arrive Alive Day." Over 50 kids wore their shirts and 99 percent of the students came to school buckled up! Terri Magers, the nurse at Atlanta School, said one of her students came up with the idea to arrange the students in an arrow shape for the photo.



Kayle Denny, with the ThinkFirst Missouri program, is pictured at Novinger High School sharing her story of how she became disabled as a result of a traffic accident where she wasn't wearing a seat belt. Kayle's program is part of the "Just Drive" promotion sponsored by the NE Coalition for Roadway Safety, the Iowa Department of Transportation, KTVO Television out of Kirksville, and several other partners to encourage people to pay attention behind the wheel. Learn more at [KTVO's web site](#).



A two-day training course took place at the NE District office last month, where nine individuals were taught and certified on the proper installation of child safety seats.

NE Missouri Has Nine More Certified Safety Seat Instructors

After months of planning and working with the organization Safe Kids, the NE Coalition for Roadway Safety sponsored nine individuals and three instructors during a child passenger safety seat certification class.

"We have had a shortage of certified techs in northeast Missouri, so we included this as part of our educational plan this year," explained Marisa Christy-Kerns, senior customer relations specialist for MoDOT and co-chairman of the Coalition's Education Subcommittee.

Following the two-day class, participants became certified by installing seats during an actual event, which was held at MoDOT's NE District office. Tana Akright, senior customer relations specialist for MoDOT and co-chairman of the Coalition's Education Subcommittee, coordinated the event. "We distributed several free car seats to families and grandparents who came," she said.

More car seats, purchased by the Coalition, were given to regional health departments, the local hospital, Parents As Teachers, and other organizations who can identify the need.

All CPS Techs are located on the NE Coalition website at www.savemolives.com.

For more info

Marisa Brown-Ellison
Customer Relations Manager
Northeast District
573.248.2502
Marisa.Ellison@modot.mo.gov

1711 S. Highway 61
Hannibal, MO 63401

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Kansas City District

Public Hearing Draws Crowd



MoDOT's Kansas City District, in partnership with the Cities of Kansas City, Liberty, and Pleasant Valley and the Village of Claycomo hosted an open house design public hearing for the I-35 and Pleasant Valley Interchange Project on Tuesday, Nov. 26.

The interchange has already gained much attention in the community and a record number of attendees participated in the event -- more than 120 -- asking questions and leaving comments.

During the hearing, the public reviewed several exhibits that showed the project area and preliminary design plans for the improvement of I-35 from Vivion Road to Pleasant Valley Road, the I-35 and Pleasant Valley Road interchange, Church Road, Sobbie Road, Pleasant Valley

Road, South Liberty Parkway, and US-69.

Construction activities are anticipated to begin during the summer of 2014 at a cost of approximately \$38 million. For more information on this project, [visit the online hearing](#).

Community Celebrates New Interchange

On a chilly afternoon in November, city leaders, MoDOT representatives and elected officials joined local citizens to celebrate a much-anticipated project that widens a key city corridor making it safer and more efficient. Among the ribbon-snippers was U.S. Congressman Sam Graves who took a personal role in making sure this project was funded for the growing Northland.

Route 92 in Kearney is now four lanes with turn lanes, creating a 5-lane section of roadway from just east of Interstate 35 to Sam Barr Road. This new roadway will minimize congestion and enhance safety along this busy corridor. A designated lane for turns allow vehicles to safely pull out of the driving lanes to make a turn while through traffic continues to move along Route 92.

Crews maintained an aggressive schedule in order to finish the roadway by the end of this year because it is important to this community and the motorists who use it every day.



Stolen Motorist Assist Truck Recovered in Minutes, Badly Damaged

In a pre-holiday heist gone wrong, a MoDOT Motorist Assist truck was stolen early Nov. 21, only to be recovered minutes later, minus a hand-held radio programmed only for Kansas City Police and MoDOT frequencies.

MoDOT Incident Management Coordinator Rusty James said that alert and quick response by Kansas City Scout operators and Kansas City Police helped track down and recover the truck.

"Kansas City Scout operators on duty saw that the truck was moving using the GPS equipment on the truck," James said. "The GPS signal helped police quickly locate the truck just north of 24th and Lawn in Kansas City, only a few blocks from Motorist Assist's 18th Street complex. The suspect fled before police arrived."

James said the thief drove through and destroyed a gate at the Motorist Assist facility and extensively damaged the truck. Several other items were also removed from the truck.



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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Central District

Osage River Rail Bridge Ribbon Cutting Held on Nov. 25 in Osage City

Federal Railroad Administrator Joseph Szabo, Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Greg Smith, MoDOT Director Dave Nichols and representatives from Amtrak and Union Pacific celebrated the opening of the Osage River rail bridge in front of a large crowd on Nov. 25 in Osage City.

The 1,200-foot railroad bridge across the Osage River in Osage City is designed to add capacity and reduce delays on the route used by Union Pacific Railroad and Amtrak *Missouri River Runner* trains between Kansas City and St. Louis.

The bridge will unclog a major bottleneck that was caused when two tracks would funnel to one to cross the Osage River on a single-track railroad bridge and then connect back to a double mainline track. The tracks between St. Louis and Jefferson City will now consist entirely of two mainline tracks.



Representatives from MoDOT, Amtrak, Union Pacific and OCCI, Inc. pose with the ceremonial "Golden Spike" during the Osage River rail bridge ribbon cutting on Nov. 25 in Osage City. Pictured (from left) are: MoDOT Director Dave Nichols, Amtrak Government Affairs Director Derek James, MoDOT Multimodal Operations Director Michelle Teel, Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Greg Smith, Union Pacific Railroad Vice President of Public Affairs Donna Kush, Federal Railroad Administrator Joseph Szabo; Ted Kettlewell, Vice President of OCCI, Inc., and representatives of OCCI.

A multimillion dollar award to MoDOT under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded a majority of the project, with Union Pacific providing the remainder of the cost. The bridge was constructed by OCCI, Inc. of Fulton, Mo.

First of Three Blasts on Old Hurricane Deck Bridge Scheduled for This Week

The first of three blasts to remove the steel truss on the old Hurricane Deck Bridge near Sunrise Beach is scheduled for this week.

In advance of the event, we thought we'd share some of the fun facts and details of the bridge blast:

- The old Hurricane Deck Bridge, spanning the Lake of the Ozarks near Sunrise Beach,

Mo., is eight spans long. Three spans are concrete girders and five spans are steel truss girders. Only the steel truss spans will be removed by blasting.



- The steel truss spans will be removed in three blasts on three separate dates. The first will take place Dec. 6. The second blast will be scheduled within two weeks after the first blast, and the third blast will take place approximately two weeks after the second blast, weather permitting.
 - The first blast will remove the north steel truss span. The second blast will remove the south steel truss span. The third blast will remove the center steel truss span.
 - The total length of the truss spans to be blasted is 2,180 feet. First blast - approximately 740 feet long. Second blast - about 740 feet long. Third blast - approximately 700 feet long.
 - The blasting subcontractor is using a total of 111.72 pounds of explosives for all three blasts. First blast - 31.16 pounds of explosives. Second blast - 33.44 pounds of explosives. Third blast - 47.12 pounds of explosives. Explosives used in the blasts are linear shaped charges specifically designed to cut steel.
 - For the first blast, the detonating velocity is about 27,000 feet per second. The whole shot, from the button push to the detonation of the last charge, will take place in thirty-two thousandths of a second.
- The decibel level for each of the three blasts will be anywhere from 130-140 decibels. This is roughly equal to the sound of a 200-piece marching band or a military-grade aircraft takeoff.
- Approximately 3.26 million pounds of steel will be dropped into the lake during the three blasts. About 1 million pounds of steel will drop into the lake each time for blasts one and two. Approximately 1.28 million pounds of steel will drop into the lake for the third blast.
 - The three blasts will slice the bridge into 44 pieces. Each piece is 60 feet long and 25 feet wide.
 - The steel will be taken from the water by crane and lifted onto a barge. It will take about one to two weeks to fish the steel out of the lake for each span blasted. The steel will be salvaged and recycled.

District Sending Holiday Mail to Heroes

District Senior Paralegal Ken Gartner signs one of several greeting cards meant for the Red Cross' Holiday Mail for Heroes program.

This year the Central District is participating in the program that sends cards and personal messages to our troops abroad during the holiday season.

Each year the Red Cross collects these cards between October and early December and then distributes them at military installations, veterans hospitals, and in other locations.



Throughout the year, you can make a difference with a monetary gift to Help Military Families through the Red Cross. Your donation can help change a military family's life. Donate Now.

For More about the program please visit the [Red Cross Holiday Mail for Heroes site](#).

Busy Month for District Public Meetings



The District is meeting with the public about upcoming projects with four public meetings scheduled during the holiday season.

This photo of Area Engineer Preston Kramer with a customer is from the Route 8 Bridge Replacement public meeting in Phelps County on Nov. 26.

This photo of District Design Engineer Nicole Hood explaining a project is from the Dec. 3 public meeting about Route H bridge improvements in Gasconade County.



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St. Louis District

Barrel Bob T-shirt Demand Goes Statewide

by Shaunda White

What started out as a Voice of St. Louis fund raiser quickly changed to a statewide T-shirt project.

The Voice of St. Louis group created a shirt with Barrel Bob's image on the back and "Don't barrel through workzones" printed across.

The shirts were sold at the first St. Louis district fall meeting in October and 100 shirts were sold on the first day. Shortly after, employees from all districts requested shirts too.

The Voice of St. Louis Group felt that the shirt was a great way to promote the MoDOT mascot.

More than 300 shirts have been sold and all proceeds went to the 10-33 Benevolent Fund, which supports the families of fallen workers.



Jim Feeney, maintenance worker, is featured sorting out Barrel Bob T-shirts when they arrived at the St. Louis District Office.

Robert Staufenbiel and Charlie Wiggins Earn Safety Recognition in the St. Louis District

by Shaunda White

Robert Staufenbiel and Charlie Wiggins, both maintenance workers in the St. Louis District, earned safety awards in September and October because of their commitment to safety by ensuring everybody in their environment is always safe.

Robert, Safety Employee of the Month for September, was nominated by 12 of his coworkers. Robert began his employment with the department in December of 2012 and works in the Wentzville maintenance facility. He always wears his PPE and ensures his team is safe during traffic control operations.

"Bob is a very hard worker with a positive safety attitude. He is a great team member and a St. Louis leader in safety," said his supervisor, Larry Evans.

Charlie, Safety Employee of the Month for October,



Robert Staufenbiel (center), of the Wentzville maintenance building, earns the Safety Employee of the Month for September. He is featured with Greg Horn (left) St. Louis District Engineer, and Lisa Lamons (right), District Safety and Health Manager.

was nominated by his supervisor, Dan Cronin. Charlie began his employment with the department in July of 1988 and works out of the Bellefontaine maintenance facility. Dan nominated Charlie for his quick act of courage to assist a coworker which appeared to be having a stroke. Charlie called 911 immediately and did not leave his coworkers side until the paramedics arrived. Even though the paramedics found the employee to be okay, Charlie made it his priority to keep an eye on his coworker

for the remainder of the work day.

“Safety goes beyond making sure we are safe on highways. We also have to be able to recognize signs of fellow workers in distress and know how to come to their aid quickly,” said Charlie.

Both Robert and Charlie have demonstrated safety is a number priority through their commitments to ensure that their team members are safe.

MoDOT Cuts Ribbon for Route 100 Widening



Federal, state and local officials cut the ribbon opening the new lanes on Route 100 in Washington, Mo., Nov. 25. The project widened Route 100 to five lanes between Route 47 and Pottery Road and improved intersections at Jefferson and Route A.



Traffic moves along Route 100 in Washington, Mo., as crews wrap up temporary striping and signal work. All lanes opened to traffic on Nov. 26.

For more info

Marie Elliott

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at

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Southwest District

SW District at Work



RECEIVING A SHIPMENT: Checking in a delivery in the Southwest District Warehouse is Senior General Services Technician Debra Vinson. (Top Left Photo/Bob Edwards)

NEW ALL-WAY STOP: Preparing to put up one of the new signs for converting the Route 265/165 intersection south of Branson to an all-way stop are, from left, Branson Maintenance Supervisor Jim Jewsbury and Sign Maintenance Crew Leaders Bob Lawrence and Jeff Caffey. (Top Right Photo/Bob Edwards)

FRIEND FAMILY MEMORIAL: A new memorial sign for the Dade County Route CC bridge over Stockton Lake near Greenfield is delivered for a family ceremony by Senior Maintenance Worker James Blanchard, left, and Senior Maintenance Worker Bill Scott of Greenfield Maintenance. (Bottom Left Photo/David Mitchell)

Improvised Tool Helps Monett Maintenance Clear Beaver Dam from Route 37 Culvert

by David Mitchell

A clogged culvert threatened to send heavy rain runoff across Route

37 west of Pierce City – a definite safety hazard.

The cause of the blockage? A beaver dam.

And the crew at Monett Maintenance had to do something about it.

“Every year we deal with beavers trying to build dams at this particular location,” Monett Maintenance Supervisor Bryan Ozbun said.

The crew has had mixed results using hand tools and began looking for another solution.

Monett employees fastened together four sections of scrap iron, each about 5 feet long, and built what they call a “Beaver Buster Bar.”

Those who worked on the project were Ozbun, Darrell Hoyer, Dave Trammel, Jeff Kaiser, Justin Presson and Mark Higgs of Monett Maintenance and Robert Brantner of Galena Maintenance.

When assembled, the iron arm weighs about 200 pounds and is mounted on a backhoe where the bucket attaches.

“It’s not the ‘cat’s meow’ to clean out all culverts, but it works good on beaver dams,” Ozbun said.

Before the “buster” was deployed, the dam-constructing beavers were removed by Department of Conservation agents.

Conservation is used to dealing with beavers whose numbers are “abundant and steady” along Missouri streams and in wetlands.

In fact, Conservation receives plenty of complaints about beavers in the fall and winter from people concerned about trees damaged when the beavers build dams, Conservation biologist James Dixon said.

“Probably because when the leaves drop, that’s when their damage is most noticeable,” Dixon said.

After Monett Maintenance pushed the buster through the culvert to break up the dam, cattle panels were put up to make it more difficult for beavers to re-build.

“They can still swim through, but they can’t drag brush through it,” Ozbun said.



Beaver Buster Bar (Photo/Bryan Ozbun)



Unclogging the culvert. (Photo/Bryan Ozbun)

Consultant-Contractor Interest Strong In U.S. 60/Rogersville 'Project Freeway'

by Bob Edwards

A nearly full house and a lively question-and-answer session highlighted an informational meeting for industry partners interested in building the Rogersville “Project Freeway.”

“I could tell by the questions from the consultants and contractors that they were already thinking about the best way to approach the project,” District Engineer Becky Baltz said.

The meeting on Monday, Dec. 2, in the Ramada-Oasis Hotel and Convention Center in Springfield, drew 77 representatives of consulting engineering firms and construction contractors and subcontractors. It was the first step in the process that will produce a design-build team to build a 3-mile section of freeway along Route 60 through Rogersville. Consultants and contractors will team up to present proposals in an effort to win the contract.

“It definitely tells me there’s interest,” Project Director Sean Matlock. “I was pleased.”

Baltz welcomed the group. Matlock presented an outline of the project and fielded about a dozen questions from the participants. The rest of district’s “Project Freeway” team was introduced – Deputy Project Director Greg Chapman and Project Engineers Jason Shafer and Chris Mills. Also introduced was Roopa Banerjee of the Federal Highway Administration.

Matlock said the questions asked at the meeting will help his group refine the language in the Request for Proposals to be issued Feb. 7. A contract for the project is scheduled to be awarded to the selected contracting team on June 4.



An industry representative talks with Springfield Resident Engineer Brad Gripka, center, and project deputy director Greg Chapman, right, after the Rogersville “Project Freeway” informational meeting. (Photo/Bob Edwards)

The total program budget is \$35 million. The estimated design-build contract budget is \$27 million, plus up to \$1.5 million in add-alternates. The project must be completed by Dec. 15, 2016.

Design-build is a delivery method that includes hiring one contracting team to complete the design work and build the highway improvement under one contract. MoDOT provides the project goals, budget and schedule. The contractor team completes the work. This technique has saved time and provided cost savings for other projects in Missouri in recent years.

The design-build contractor team for the Route 60/Rogersville project will be required to develop innovations in design and in right-of-way acquisition to make the project successful. Those innovations then will be available for use on future projects anywhere in Missouri.

Information about the Route 60/Rogersville project is found on the MoDOT/Southwest web site. [Click here](#) for information about the project.

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MoDOT to Help Grant Christmas Wishes to Area Families

With Thanksgiving wrapping up, MoDOT's Southeast District remains thankful to the volunteers, retirees, and generous area businesses and individuals that keep the Christmas Angels program going. For over 25 years, the program has helped grant Christmas wishes to Southeast Missouri families in need of assistance.

"The program began with a crockpot of chili and the desire to help at least one child," said MoDOT Transportation Project Designer Jeff Wachter. "With the outpouring of support and donations, the program has grown."

This year's chili event was held Dec. 4 and raised over \$5,000. In the coming weeks, the MoDOT Southeast District volunteers will work with the Department of Family Services to identify children in need in Southeast Missouri. Volunteers will then shop for the children with the chili event's proceeds and donations.

Businesses or individuals wishing to donate to the Christmas Angels program may send or drop their donations by the Division 10 Highway Employees' Credit Union Office, located at 337 North Main Street in Sikeston, Mo. Checks can be made out to the *Christmas Angels*.

For more information about the Christmas Angels program, contact Wachter at (573) 472-5294 or Senior Design Technician Kathy Hixson at (573) 258-3277.



Generous MoDOT retirees, like Eddie Stockman and Eddy Jobe, return to MoDOT to help keep the Christmas Angels program going.

MoDOT Test Bridges, Names Winners of 10th Bridge Building Competition

Oak Ridge, Chaffee and Ste. Genevieve High Schools Take 'Top Three'

After weeks of work to build the most efficient model bridges, Southeast Missouri high school students put their bridges to the test Nov. 21 at the completion of MoDOT's 10th Annual Bridge Building Competition. The competition challenges high school juniors and seniors to design and construct the most efficient model bridge using limited materials-15 pieces of balsa wood, thread and glue.

Oak Ridge, Chaffee and Ste. Genevieve High Schools received first, second and third place for best overall performance, respectively. These schools received cash prizes donated by the Chapter 10 Transportation Employees Association of Missouri.

In addition, five students were recognized for building the lightest bridges that carried the greatest loads. Winners included:

- 1st - Kelby Brown - Oak Ridge
- 2nd - Cameron Moore - Oak Ridge
- 3rd - Emma Hemmann - Oak Ridge
- 4th - Kaleb Siemer - Oak Ridge
- 5th - Lyndsie Robert - Scott City

Other awards included the most aesthetic bridge, presented to Hannah Steward of Delta C-7 High School; and the computer-based electronic bridge award presented to Morgan Smith of Oak Ridge High School.



To view photos and videos from the bridge competition, please visit www.modot.org/southeast/programs/BridgeCompetition.htm.

Prize donations and supply sponsorships have been made possible by the following businesses and organizations: Chapter 10 Transportation Employees Association of Missouri, Cape West 14 Cine, Three Rivers Community College, Cape Area Engineers Club, Southeast Physics & Engineering Club, Southeast Chapter of the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers, Kirlin's Hallmark of Cape Girardeau, Rhodes Convenience Stores, CiCi's Pizza, Coca Cola, Sam's Club and the Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety.

MoDOT also partnered with Arkansas State University, Southeast Missouri State University, Missouri University of Science and Technology, University of Missouri-Columbia (Mizzou) and Southern Illinois University of Carbondale, to offer seniors interested in civil engineering up to \$10,000 in scholarships.

The Cape Girardeau Police Department and the Southeast Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety were on hand during the competition to discuss the importance of buckling-up with the Seat Belt Convincer, which simulates how it feels to be in a traffic crash. In addition, an obstacle course was set-up to simulate the dangers of driving while intoxicated. The Missouri State Highway Patrol assisted by providing equipment for the educational displays.

For more information, please contact Senior Highway Designer Anita Clark at (573) 472-5292, Senior Highway Designer Gretchen Hanks at (573) 472-5294 or MoDOT's Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888 ASK MODOT (275-6636).

MoDOT to Hold Second Meeting in Poplar Bluff to Discuss Roundabout

MoDOT's Southeast District will hold second meeting from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19 to discuss constructing a roundabout at Route PP/Township Line Road and improving the Route 67 crossover at Township Line Road. The briefing will be held at the Poplar Bluff Chamber of Commerce office, located at 1111 West Pine in Poplar Bluff.

"Visitors can stop-by anytime between 4 and 6 p.m. to discuss the details of the project with a member of the project team and provide their comments," said Project Manager Jason Williams.

The proposed intersection improvements at Route PP and Township Line Road would help traffic flow more smoothly. MoDOT will share plans to construct a four-legged roundabout in the location.

In addition, MoDOT will present two options for reconfiguring the Route 67 crossover at Township Line Road to improve safety.

For more information, please contact Project Manager Jason Williams at (573) 472-5290, Transportation Project Designer David Blalock at (573) 472-5295 or MoDOT's Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888-ASK MODOT (275-6636).

KFVS12 Investigates Heartland Bridges, MoDOT's Funding Issue



Click the image above to watch the recent interview regarding the SE District's bridges with KFVS12.

"Do you feel safe when you travel over bridges in the Heartland?" That's the question KFVS12's Holly Brantley posed to Missourians for her feature story on bridges in Missouri and neighboring states.

Similar to comments received during MoDOT's On the Move initiative, Brantley heard that Southeast Missourians have specific projects in mind—many of which include improving safety and helping the area's farming communities.

However, as District Engineer Mark Shelton and Assistant District Engineer Matt Seiler explained, MoDOT's current funding levels will not support all of the improvements travelers would like to see.

While MoDOT continues to make the best use of taxpayers' dollars, the demands outweigh the available funding.

Please visit www.kfvs12.com/story/24070993/heartland-news-investigates-bridges-in-our-states to watch the complete feature story.



Click the image above to view an aerial of the proposed roundabout.

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